

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-11 IO-14 EUR-25 EB-11 COA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EPA-04 CEQ-02

SCI-06 DRC-01 SMI-01 INT-08 COME-00 /198 W

----- 082466

R 041011Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9971

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0614

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ZA

SUBJECT: FREEDOM FIGHTER PROBLEM

REF: LUSAKA 0613

1. FUZZED LANGUAGE OF GRZ COMMUNICATIONS TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL ON ZAMBIA'S INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO CONTROL OR REMOVE FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN WCI GAME CONSERVATION AREA ALONG ZAMBEZI REFLECTS HIGHTENED TENSION AND ACTIVITY IN AREA AND POSSIBLE DECSION OF GRZ POLITICAL INTERESTS IN LIGHT OF FREEDOM FIGHTER SUCCESSES TO DATE AS WELL AS PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS ON ZAMBIAN SECURITY CAPABILITIES.

2. RATIONALE BEHIND GRZ COMMUNICATION MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON ONE OR MORE OF FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS: A) OBVIOUS BUILD-UP AND INTENSIFICATION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES ON RHODESIAN BORDER

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AND IN NEARBY MOZAMBIQUE, WITH INCREASING PRC

TRAINING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE PLUS ADDITIONAL MATERIAL HELP
FROM OTHERS,

E.G., USSR, NORDICS, AND WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES;

B) GRZ APPROACH TO CONTROL ACTIVITIES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
WAS MADE BUT MAY HAVE MET WITH RESISTANCE STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE
GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZE MORE CLEARLY AFRICAN AND ZAMBIAN INTERESTS
MUST BE PRESSED WITH NEW VIGOR AND IT THEREFORE NECESSARY TO
GO BACK ON EARLIER COMMITMENT TO WCI TO FREE THE AREA;

C) ZAMBIAN FORCES INADEQUATE FOR TASK OR IN ANY EVENT NEEDED
FOR HIGHER PRIORITY DUTY IN COMBATING RISING RATE OF CRIME,
ESPECIALLY VIOLENT CRIME. WHATEVER ITS RATIONALE AND CONCLUSION,
GRZ HAS NOW BECOME MORE BLATANT THAN EVER IN DISREGARD AND
VILATION OF ITS PUBLIC POSITION THAT FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE NOT
BASED IN ZAMBIA AND ARE ONLY ALLOWED FREE PASSAGE FROM BASES
ELSEWHERE.

3. THERE IS ENVIRONMENTAL TRAGEDY IN GRZ DECISION. IT MEANS
INCREASED DANGER TO VALUABLE WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN THIS UNIQUE
SECTOR OF ZAMBIA. IN ABSENCE OF WCI SCOUTS AND GAME WARDENS,
POACHING BY ZAMBIAN RURAL POPULATION WILL GROW AND THERE WILL
BE ADDITIONAL LOSSES OF GAME TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS SEEKING FOOD.

4. IN VIEW OF TIE-IN OF WCI WITH AFRICAN WILDLIFE LEADER-
SHIP FOUNDATION, EMBASSY NAIROBI MAY WISH TO GAVE AMBASSADOR
MCILVAINE ORAL BRIEFING ON REFTEL AND THIS ASSESSMENT.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPECIES PROTECTION, PARAMILITARY FORCES, WILD LIFE, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUSAKA00614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740076-0254
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740467/aaaacjvo.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LUSAKA 0613
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FREEDOM FIGHTER PROBLEM
TAGS: SENV, TBIO, PINS, ZA, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005